operations of the Electricity Boards in such a manner as would yield the statutory minimum return of 3%.

Proposals From Foreign Companies in the Power Sector

185. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: Will the Minister of POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal have been received from foreign companies in the power generation sector; and

(b) if so, what are the details of such proposals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Proposals for five projects for implementation in the private sector have been received from foreign companies. These are:

(i) Barsingsar Lignite Based Thermal Power Project of 240 MW in Rajasthan from an Australian Consortium.

(ii) Lignite based thermal power project of 210 MW capacity in Neyveli in Tamil Nadu from US based NRI Company.

(iii) Coal based thermal power project of 500 MW capacity at Dubri in Orissa in which US based firms are expected to hold shares.

(iv) Coal based thermal power project of 2340 MW capacity in Ib Valley in Orissa from an US based private company.

(v) Gas based thermal power project of 800 MW capacity in the private sector for which MOU has been arrived at between NTPC and ABB (Asian Brown Boveri).

For proposals at Sl. Nos. (iii) & (iv), the project promoters have signed MOU with Orissa Government.

Development of Photovoltaics as a Source of Energy

186. SHRI SURENDRA SINGH THAKUR: Will the Minister of POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have laid emphasis on the development of photovoltaics to find alternative source of energy;

(b) if so, what are the State-wise achievements in this regard during the Sixth and Seventh Plan period so far; and

(c) what targets have been fixed for the Eighth Plan period for each State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Department of Non-Conventional Energy Sources have been implementing projects on development and demonstration of solar photovoltaic technology. The State-wise achievements during Sixth & Seventh Plans are given at Annexure.

[*See* Appendix CLXII Annexure No.3]

(c) The Eighth Plan programme has not been finalised.

Planning for a uniform power tariff system in the country

187. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL: Will the Minister of POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether an Apex Cost Based Power Tariff Commission and Regional Power Tariff Boards have planned to put SEBs on a sound footing and to evolve a uniform power tariff system throughout the country;

(b) if so, what are the salient features of the proposed Commission and Board;

(c) whether the losses of the SEBs are mounting day by day; and

(d) if so, what are the reasons therefor and what further steps have been taken by Government to tone up the working of SEBs in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND NON-

CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) and (b) It is proposed to set up a National Power Tariff Board at the Centre to lay down the general principles, and five Regional Power Tariff Boards to work out the charges to be levied by each Utility from consumers, for each State, based on the cost of supply of power at the LT point and make recommendations to the State Governments, who will decide the cost of power to be levied from each group of consumers.

(c) and (d) The main reasons for mounting losses of the SEBs include low agricultural tariff, low plant load factor, high transmission and distribution losses, pilferage of power, heavy interest burden on loans, losses accruing due to rural electrification etc. State Governments have been impressed upon, from time to time, including in the Conferences of Power Ministers of States to improve the operations of the SEBs so as to achieve the statutory surplus of 3% and to take steps like equity participation, provision of subsidy to meet the losses for supply of power to the agricultural sector, timely revision of tariff improving the performance of generating stations, reducing T&D losses etc. States have also been urged for fixation of a minimum agricultural power tariff of 50 paise/kwh.

Plan to encourage private sector to develop energy sector

188. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of Power and Non-Conventional Energy Sources be pleased to state:

(a) Whether Government's plan to encourage private sector for developing energy sector has made any progress so far;

(b) if so, what are the names of the private sector companies which are participating or have participated in the development of energy sector; and

(c) what progress has been made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES. (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) and (c) Companies in the private sector are now implementing 6 power projects for a total capacity addition of 953 MW. A 500 MW coal based power project has been approved, in principle, in respect of CESC in West Bengal. The State Governments have also decided upon, the private sector firms, which would implement projects for a capacity of 3212.5 MW. In addition, foreign private firms have also proposed to take up 5 projects for a total installed capacity of 4090 MW. Further, the capacity of power projects in which Indian firms have evinced interest is 360 MW. A Statement to this effect, is given in the Annexure.

[*See* Appendix CLXII, Annexure No.4]

National capacity of power generation

189. SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV:

SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI:

Will the Minister of POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total national capacity of power generation and what is the average capacity at which the power Projects are working at present;

(b) whether Government are taking any steps to increase the efficiency of power generation in different State Electricity Boards; and

(c) what is government's plan to improve the efficiency of power generation in different thermal power generation plants of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KALP NATH RAI):(a) the installed capacity in the country as on 31st March, 1991 was about 66066 Mega Watts. The plant Load Factor of Thermal Power Stations during 1990-91 was 53.8 per cent.

(b) and (c) Various measures being taken to improve the generation in the country include commissioning of new generation capacity, Renovation and Modernisation of old units, assistance to Electricity Boards in undertaking Plant betterment Programme, supply of requisite quantity and quality of coal, training of Operation & Maintenance personnel and strengthening of transmission and distribution system.